

CRS Report for Congress

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Federal Land and Resources Management: A List of Internet Resources

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Summary

This report identifies selected Internet sites that provide factual and statutory information on public land and resources management. This list of sites is intended to provide assistance to those persons who have questions about the management of federal and state lands and resources as well as related laws and regulations. Addresses include major U.S. government World Wide Web (WWW) sites, links to state agencies and selected organizations, and links to legal information. Research and advocacy groups are not included. This report will be updated periodically as information on additional Internet resources becomes available. For more information, see CRS Report 98-991, *Federal Land Management Agencies: Background on Land and Resources Management*.

Selected Federal Internet Resources

Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Home Page. This is a gateway address for all of the Department Internet sites available to the public. The site includes access to departmental news releases, laws, regulations, policies, secretarial orders, strategic plans, financial reports, and programs and initiatives. [<http://www.doi.gov>]

Virtual Reading Room of the Office of Policy Analysis. This DOI site links users to information on all aspects of the management, use, and conservation of natural and cultural resources, including maps, statistics, fact sheets, and scientific, technical, and economic information. It also provides access to federal, state, and international agencies and subject-related journals, magazines, and electronic news sources.

[<http://www.doi.gov/nrl>]

Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Coverage includes wildlife management, mining activities, payments to local governments, wild horse and burro program issues,

rangeland management, BLM's noxious weed program, a searchable land patent database, full-text access to *Public Land Statistics*, annual reports, proposed regulations, and other BLM publications, and extensive background materials on locales of particular concern (e.g., Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument). [<http://www.blm.gov>]

Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Coverage includes information on over 500 individual units of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS), land acquisition and realty statistics, shared revenue payments, refuge system legislative mandates, refuge hunting and fishing regulations, habitat and wildlife management issues, migratory bird conservation, and links to regional offices. [<http://www.fws.gov>]

National Park Service (NPS). Provides detailed information on the 54 national parks and numerous national monuments, military and historical parks, battlefields, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, reserves, preserves, and scenic rivers and trails which comprise the National Park System. Coverage includes the NPS mission, history, partnerships, policies, planning and management practices, legislative and regulatory materials, press releases, park news, current wildfire information, statistical data on recreation visits and acreage, park maps, fees, and reservations.

[<http://www.nps.gov>]

Department of Agriculture

USDA Forest Service (FS). Coverage includes links to individual national forests, national grasslands, and the nine National Forest System administrative regions. Contains information on forest health, roads, forest and watershed management, forest plans, appeals and litigation, recreation fees, county payments, Forest Service directives, policies, and procedures, congressional testimony, news, and agency publications.

[<http://www.fs.fed.us>]

Special Systems on Federal Lands: Selected Web Sites

Three special management systems established by Congress include lands from more than one of the federal land management agencies: the National Wilderness Preservation System, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and the National Trails System. The following Web sites provide comprehensive information on these systems and links to federal land management agencies involved in their administration.

National Wilderness Preservation System. The BLM, FWS, NPS, and FS each currently manage some designated wilderness areas. The federally-funded Wilderness Information Network (WIN) serves as a clearinghouse for wilderness-related materials, providing information on all 625 units of the National Wilderness Preservation System via a searchable wilderness database and coverage of wilderness legislation, management issues, policy, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), statistics, and current news.

[<http://www.wilderness.net>]

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The National Park Service maintains a Web site with a complete list of designated rivers managed by BLM, NPS, FWS, and/or FS, and state partners. Coverage includes state-by-state information, legislation, and regulatory guidelines, background on the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council, and links to primers, guides, and fact sheets on the Wild and Scenic River System, authorizing legislation, and issues such as establishing river boundaries.

[<http://www.nps.gov/rivers/index.html>]

National Trails System. At its Web site, the National Park Service includes descriptions of the 15 national trails it administers, as well as the four FS-administered trails and one trail administered by BLM. There are links to extensive background for all the NPS-managed trails.

[http://www.nps.gov/pub_aff/naltrail.htm]

Other Selected United States Government Sites

Bureau of Reclamation. Part of DOI, the Bureau manages, develops, and protects water and related resources in 17 Western states. This Web site includes links to laws, regulations, federal guidelines, policies, and executive orders pertaining to the Bureau's programs and resource management activities; Reclamation facilities; and water-based recreation opportunities at Reclamation projects.

Home Page: [<http://www.usbr.gov/main/>]

Laws: [<http://www.usbr.gov/laws/>]

Recreation: [<http://www.usbr.gov/main/programs/recreation.html>]

Council on Environmental Quality(CEQ), Executive Office of the President. Established under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, CEQ is responsible for ensuring that federal agencies assess and provide for environmental impacts in the design of programs and projects.

[<http://www.whitehouse.gov/CEQ>]

Department of Defense (DOD) Environmental Resources. This site provides a growing list of links to all Internet sites related to the environmental and natural resource activities of DOD. Coverage includes Web sites authored by the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and individual branches of the U.S. armed services.

[<http://www.dtic.mil/envirodod/dodenvir.html>]

Environment and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Department of Justice. Responsibility includes litigation pertaining to the protection, use, and development of the nation's natural resources and public lands, and land acquisition for federal use.

[<http://www.usdoj.gov/enrd/enrd-home.html>]

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA Home Page is the gateway address for all EPA Internet sites available to the public. Coverage includes laws and regulations, programs, projects, policies, press releases, consumer information, technical reports, and environmental data.

[<http://www.epa.gov>]

Library of Congress. American Memory. *The Evolution of the Conservation Movement: 1850-1920* provides print and pictorial documentation from the Library's collections of the movement to protect and conserve America's natural resources. There

are links to legislative documents, books, pamphlets, manuscripts, prints, and photographs, and a chronology of selected events in the development of the American conservation movement. [<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/amrvhtml/conshome.html>]

Minerals Management Service (MMS). Part of DOI, the MMS manages the mineral resources of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and collects and distributes mineral revenues from federal and Indian lands. Coverage includes offshore royalty management, current news, bureau publications and statistics, laws and regulations governing MMS activities, and links to WWW sites related to mineral exploration and development on public lands. [<http://www.mms.gov/>]

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The largest bureau within the Department of Commerce, NOAA's mission encompasses environmental assessment, prediction, and stewardship of atmospheric, coastal, and ocean resources. Major organizations within NOAA include the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Ocean Service (NOS), and the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR). Home Page [<http://www.noaa.gov>]

National Marine Fisheries Service: [<http://www.nmfs.gov/>]

National Ocean Service [<http://www.nos.noaa.gov/>]

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research [<http://www.oar.noaa.gov/>]

National Recreation Reservation Service (™). This is a one-stop federal campsite reservation resource for the USDA Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facilities, covering more than 1,700 locations nationwide. [<http://ReserveUSA.com/>]

Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. This office coordinates resource stewardship and conservation programs which include forestry, soil conservation, water protection, and wetlands. [<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>]

Office of Surface Mining (OSM). This DOI bureau works cooperatively with states and Indian Tribes to protect the environment during coal mining and to oversee abandoned mine reclamation programs and environmental restoration. Provides background on OSM, its budget and strategic plan, annual reports, directives, regulations, statistics, and detailed materials on abandoned mines and active mining. [<http://www.osmre.gov/osm.htm>]

Recreation.GOV. Another one-stop resource for information about recreation on federal lands. A collaborative effort of the federal land management agencies, recreation sites are searchable by state, agency, and/or recreational activity. There are links to detailed maps and weather forecasts for each site. [<http://www.recreation.gov/>]

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). TVA's land management responsibilities include shoreland acreage used for flood control and the maintenance of TVA dams and lakes. Coverage includes links to TVA-administered shoreline areas and Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. Home Page: [<http://www.tva.gov/home.htm>]
Lakes and Recreation: [<http://www.tva.gov/environment/>]

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Army Corps of Engineers manages and maintains numerous recreational sites nationwide. The Recreational Resources Web site in particular provides information on lakeside parks administered by the Corps and campground information.

Home Page: [<http://www.usace.army.mil>]

Recreation: [<http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/rec.htm>]

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). A DOI bureau, the USGS provides scientific data on the nation's land, water, biological, mineral, and energy resources. This Web site has links to major USGS subjects (hazards, resources, environment, information management), servers (biology, geology, mapping, water), and the laws and regulations pertaining to its activities. [<http://www.usgs.gov/>]

Selected State Resources

State Agencies

StateSearch. Compiled by the National Association of State Information Resources Executives, this site provides links to the Web sites of state natural resources, environment, and energy departments, divisions, and agencies. Coverage varies by state but may include forestry, land, parks and outdoor recreation, conservation, and natural resources.

Home Page: [<http://www.nasire.org/stateSearch/>]

State Energy and Environmental Resources:
[<http://www.nasire.org/stateSearch/displayCategory.cfm?Category=environment>]

U.S. State & Local Gateway: EPA Regions and State Environmental Agencies. This EPA resource links users to natural resource conservation and environmental protection agencies for each state. [<http://www.epa.gov/epages/statelocal/envrolst.htm>]

National Associations of State Agencies

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA).

. This organization of state, provincial, and federal fish and wildlife agencies in the United States, Canada, and Mexico provides access to its activities and programs focused on the protection and management of fish and wildlife resources and their habitats.

[<http://www.teaming.com/iafwa.htm>]

National Association of State Foresters (NASF). Coverage includes a directory of state foresters, links to state forester home pages, state forestry statistics, and information on state and private forestry programs.

[<http://www.stateforesters.org/>]

National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD). This site provides information on NASPD, state park statistics, and links to state park Web pages and research on park issues.

[<http://www.indiana.edu/~naspd/>]

National Governors' Association (NGA). The NGA is a bipartisan national organization of, by, and for the nation's governors. This Web site highlights key state and state-federal issues, including policy positions on over 20 natural resource issues, and NGA documents and news publications.

[<http://www.nga.org>]

Regional Associations of State Agencies

Southern Governors' Association (SGA). The oldest of the regional governors' associations, SGA provides a bipartisan forum for addressing state and regional problems

cooperatively and exploring federal issues with regional impacts. The site includes links to several SGA natural resource initiatives. [<http://www.southerngovernors.org>]

Western Governors' Association (WGA). Includes links to resolutions and publications pertaining to public lands issues and the conservation of natural resources covering multi-jurisdictional boundaries. [<http://www.westgov.org>]

Western States Land Commissioners Association (WSLCA). WSLCA encompasses 23 states with shared management responsibility for trust lands, lands under navigable waterways, and mineral rights properties. This site includes information on cooperative activities and links to the Web sites of WSLCA member states. [<http://www.wslca.org>]

Selected Law and Regulation Resources

Department of the Interior — Laws and Regulations. Coverage includes laws, rules, and regulations related to the DOI, its agencies and their missions, Solicitor's opinions, and decisions from the Office of Hearings and Appeals. [<http://library.doi.gov/legal.html>]

Forest Service — Administrative Information. Provides links to Forest Service directives, appeals and litigation, final decisions, rules, and a compilation of major laws critical in the development of national forests and their management. [<http://www.fs.fed.us/links/laws.shtml>]

Indiana University/WWW Virtual Law Library — Environmental Law. An annotated list of environmental law links provides access to legal documents and selected national and international Internet sites with a legal focus. [<http://www.law.indiana.edu/v-lib/#b>]

Pace Virtual Environmental Law Library. Includes coverage of federal laws and related regulations governing protection of the environment and natural resources, national comparative environmental laws, and international environmental laws and treaties. [<http://www.law.pace.edu/env/vell6.html>]

Legislative Resources

THOMAS — U.S. Congress on the Internet. A service provided and maintained by the Library of Congress, this site provides links to the full text and status of current and past legislation, the *Congressional Record*, and committee reports. [<http://thomas.loc.gov>]

U.S. House of Representatives. Includes information on individual Representatives and the activities of House committees. [<http://www.house.gov>]

U.S. Senate. Contains information on individual Senators and the activities of Senate committees. [<http://www.senate.gov>]